

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The committee amendment was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

#### NATIONAL SALES TAX WOULD BE A DISASTER

(Mr. NICKEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 212, a resolution I was proud to introduce earlier this week with Congressman SORENSEN and Congresswoman PETTERSEN.

My resolution is simple and opposes the 30 percent national sales tax plan proposed by several of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

A 30 percent sales tax would be a disaster for working families in my district who are already dealing with high prices of gas, exorbitant housing costs, and rising costs of living. It would hit seniors living on a fixed income especially hard.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve more than mere messaging and performative politics over the next 2 years, and this plan is just that.

I came to Congress to get things done, and I will work with anyone—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—to lower costs, simplify the Tax Code for the middle class, and tackle the most pressing kitchen table issues facing North Carolina families.

#### BALANCING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE RIGHT TO LIFE

(Ms. MACE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a very important issue in South Carolina's First Congressional District, the State of South Carolina, and the United States of America.

Last week, a member of the State legislature in South Carolina filed a piece of legislation that would execute women who have abortions. To see this debate go to the dark places, the dark edges where it has gone on both sides of the aisle, has been deeply disturbing to me as a woman, as a female legislator, as a mom, and as a victim of rape. I was raped as a teenager at the age of 16.

This debate ought to be a bipartisan debate where we balance the rights of women and we balance the right to life.

But we aren't having that conversation here in D.C., we aren't having that conversation at home, and we aren't having that conversation with fellow State lawmakers.

This week, I filed a bill that would give women greater access to contraceptives by cutting the red tape, reducing the application fees with the FDA,

and reducing that application process by half.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get on board with these issues today.

#### CONGRESS HAS THE SOLE AUTHORITY TO AUTHORIZE MILITARY INVOLVEMENTS

(Ms. HOYLE of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, the American people are fed up with the United States being involved in endless military conflicts around the world.

For far too long, Presidents of both parties have overstepped their constitutional authority by engaging in dubious legal gymnastics to continue involving U.S. troops in endless wars and conflicts without congressional authorization.

Article I of the Constitution is clear. Congress has the sole authority to authorize military involvements in overseas conflict. Once authorized by Congress, Article II of the Constitution allows the President to direct the military as Commander in Chief.

Congress must reassert its sole authority and not allow the executive branch to sidestep us.

As the largest and most diverse group in the Federal Government responsible for representing the American people and their interests, Congress should engage in debate before the executive branch can involve U.S. troops in wars overseas.

Tens of thousands of U.S. troops have been put in harm's way and trillions of taxpayer dollars have been spent on overseas military ventures around the world without proper debate or oversight from Congress.

Enough is enough. That is why I support the Syria War Powers Resolution that the House voted on earlier this week.

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#### PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BUDGET

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support President Biden's new 2024 budget proposal.

This budget is just what the country needs to move forward. It includes caps on insulin payments to \$35 for all Americans. It restores the enhanced child tax credit and provides up to \$3,600 per family per child. It contains \$4.5 billion for infrastructure projects. It has \$700 million for the Hudson River tunnel and Gateway Program, and it includes \$219 million to eliminate lead pipes from drinking water around the country.

This budget represents strong leadership, and it supports investments in

the future of American prosperity. I am proud to support President Biden's new budget.

Now we need Speaker MCCARTHY to show the same responsibility and leadership with his budget proposal.

#### GET AMERICANS WORKING AGAIN

(Mr. MOONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, going to work is more than just earning a paycheck. It is an important part of human dignity. Unfortunately, too many Americans are getting paid not to work.

According to a recent study, Americans can receive more money to stay home than they could putting in a hard day's work. According to the findings, a family of four in three States can receive more than \$100,000 in cash and benefits per year without working. A further 14 States allow a family of four to receive more than \$80,000 in cash and benefits without working.

In West Virginia, my home State, two unemployed parents with two minor children can make over \$73,000 in unemployment benefits and healthcare subsidies. Unfortunately, this is more than essential workers, like our firefighters or our truck drivers, make in a year.

Hardworking West Virginians helped build America. From the coal industry to the logging industry, our Nation needs Mountaineers to keep America moving forward.

While it is true that the CARES Act provided unemployment benefits for Americans in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, the pandemic is over. Even President Joe Biden said as much on "60 Minutes."

Now Congress needs to provide bipartisan solutions to get Americans working again.

#### SUPPORTING CAREER PATHWAYS

(Ms. BUDZINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my first bill as a Member of Congress, the LEAP Act.

This bipartisan piece of legislation aims to create new opportunities for American workers by supporting apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs. These training programs are a proven way to address the job skills gap and to get folks ready for careers in growing industries.

By providing tax credits to small businesses, this bill will both address the need for more qualified workers and cut educational costs, a win-win for employers and working people.

I thank former Congressman RODNEY DAVIS, who was the first to introduce this legislation back in 2013, and I thank Congressman MIKE CAREY for